

AGENDA ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: Uncontested NPDES Permits and Enforcement

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of NPDES Permits and Enforcement

**a. City of Anderson, Anderson Water Pollution Control Plant, Shasta County –
Renewal of NPDES Permit CA007704**

The City of Avenal and Madera Disposal Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Waste Connections, hereinafter referred to jointly as “Discharger”, own and operate the Avenal Regional Landfill (Facility), respectively. The Facility is located northeast of the intersection of State Road 269 and Hydril Road within the incorporated limits of the City of Avenal. On 27 January 2005, the Central Valley Regional Board issued Order No. R5-2005-0023, which continued to classify the Facility as a Class III landfill for the discharge of non-hazardous waste and non-designated solid waste.

The Facility is on a 173-acre property and the landfill consists of existing unlined units covering approximately 45 acres and lined units that will cover up to approximately 78 acres. There has been no indication of a release of any waste constituents from the Facility. On 27 September 2018, the Discharger submitted a revised Joint Technical Document (JTD) for the landfill. The JTD and supporting documents contain information related to this revision of the WDRs including the acceptance of non-hazardous, non-designated liquid waste for solidification prior to disposal.

This Order would allow for the Discharge to accept non-hazardous, non-designated liquid waste for solidification prior to disposal.

**b. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility, Mariposa County, –
Renewal of NPDES Permit CA0081759**

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park (Discharger) is the owner and operator of El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility), located at 5083 Foresta Road, El Portal, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the community of El Portal and the Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park, serving a population of approximately 2,200 permanent residents and up to 20,000 visitors per day during peak summer months. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to an average dry weather flow of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD). The Facility is permitted to discharge tertiary-treated wastewater to the Merced River, a water of the United States, either directly or via adjacent percolation ponds.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2014-0068, adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 6 June 2014. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed permit includes new or updated effluent limitations for electrical conductivity and ammonia (as N). The proposed permit removes existing effluent limitations for nitrite plus nitrate (as N), copper, and zinc because the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to in-stream exceedances of the applicable water quality objectives for these constituents. Flow is not a pollutant and therefore has been changed from an effluent limit to a discharge prohibition in the proposed permit.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 24 July 2019 with comments due by 3 September 2019. Written comments were not received from the Discharger or other interested parties. However, in response to the Discharger's fiscal year budget limitations, the Effluent and Receiving Water Characterization monitoring schedule has been modified to require the necessary monitoring over the first three years of the permit rather than all in the second year. A few additional revisions were made to correct typographical errors.

c. Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Company, –Shasta County, – Renewal of NPDES Permit CA0081957

Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Company, Inc. (Discharger) is the owner and operator of Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Company, Inc. (Facility), a 54-megawatt biomass electrical generation plant. The Facility comprises approximately 75-acres, with areas for log storage, fuel storage, truck unloading, power generation, water cooling and storm water retention. The Facility is in the City of Anderson in Shasta County.

Effluent from the Facility continuously discharges to a 2.8-acre, unlined retention pond. The retention pond receives an average of 400,000 gallons per day (gpd) of cooling tower blowdown, wastewater from plant maintenance, condensate, and storm water runoff. The retention pond is highly vegetated with cattails and, tall grass, which decrease flow velocity and increase retention time, allowing for additional settling and heat loss. The retention pond contents drain into an open channel, through a 60-inch concrete pipe, and through a 12-inch discharge pipe before discharging into the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District Canal.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2015-0078, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 5 June 2015. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit.

In the Facility's fuel pile area, storm water leaches from the fuel pile and runoff accumulates within the bermed area along the fuel pile's eastern boundary. In

January 2016, the bermed area overtopped, due to significant amounts of rain, and discharged leachate, comingled with stormwater, to the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District canal, resulting in an unauthorized discharge.

In order to allow the Discharger improved fuel pile leachate management abilities, the tentative order allows for discharging a blend of fuel pile leachate with cooling tower blowdown at a maximum 1:20 ratio (Blend). Previous orders have prohibited the discharge of fuel pile leachate. However, discharging the Blend will allow the Discharger to drain the fuel pile leachate collection area, which will improve fuel quality and ground conditions, decrease odor potential, and reduce the potential for unauthorized leachate discharge. Staff made appropriate antidegradation findings in the tentative order along with the requirement for an antidegradation re-evaluation upon renewal to ensure the blended discharge continues to meet the state's Anti-Degradation Policy.

Based on effluent data collected during the current permit term, the tentative order also includes new effluent limits for arsenic.

The Discharger notified Central Valley Water Board staff of several errors in the monitoring and reporting program of the tentative order during the public comment period. Staff made these minor revisions to the tentative order including adding clarifying language to effluent monitoring table and log deck spray area monitoring table. The public comment period ended on 16 September 2019 and no other comments were received.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the NPDES Permits and Enforcement